

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein; and claims 2, 5, 9, 12, 16-19, 21-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 41, 42, 44 and 45 have been amended, leaving claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12-19, 21-25, 27-29, 31-39 and 41-45 pending in the application. The specification has been amended to provide express support for the subject matter recited in claims 44 and 45. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

As indicated in the Office Action, claims 14, 15, 33-39 and 43 have been allowed. As a result of the claim amendments set forth above, claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 16-19, 21-25, 27-29, 31, 32, 41, 44 and 45 depend directly or ultimately from allowed claim 14. Accordingly, these dependent claims are also allowable.

Objection Under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)/Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1

The Amendment filed on September 25, 2006, was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a), and claims 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1. The Examiner asserts that the subject matter of claims 44 and 45 is not supported by the original disclosure and Figures 2 and 5c.

In order to provide express disclosure of the subject matter recited in claims 44 and 45, the specification has been amended at paragraphs [00049] and [00051] to provide a written description of the subject matter recited in claims 45 and 44, respectively. The amendments are supported by Figures 2 and 5c. It is well-

established that the drawings form part of the original disclosure and thus can be used to provide written descriptive support for claimed subject matter. See M.P.E.P. § 2163(II)(3)(a), page 2100-172, second paragraph. Accordingly, although not required to do so, Applicants are allowed to amend the specification to include an express written description of subject matter that is shown in the original drawings and thus supported by the original disclosure.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings and the specification as amended in light of the drawings, provide a written description of the subject matter recited in claims 44 and 45 that complies with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13, 16-25, 27-29, 31, 41, 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,133,137 to Petersen ("Petersen") in view of DE 195 00 383 A1 to Geissbuhler et al. ("DE '383") and U.S. Patent No. 2,316,664 to Brassert et al. ("Brassert"); claims 1-13, 16-25, 27-29, 31, 41, 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Brassert in view of DE '383; claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Petersen in view of DE '383 and Brassert, and further in view of Sanderson (U.S. Patent No. 3,608,867); and claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Brassert in view of DE '383, and further in view of Sanderson.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 16-19, 21-25, 27-29, 31, 32, 41, 44 and 45 depend directly or ultimately from allowable claim 14. Accordingly, these rejections are moot. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions regarding this reply, Applicants' undersigned representative can be reached at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 2, 2007

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